(ग) राजमार्गों को राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग घोषित करने के संबंध में विभिन्न राज्यों से प्राप्त अभ्यावेदनों का ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) उनके प्रति सरकार का क्या रवैया है ?

जः-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाईट..र) : (क) देश में 77 राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग हैं जिनकी कुल लम्बाई 34,058 कि०मी० है ।

(ख) जनवरी, 1993 में कुरनूल से चितूर तक राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग सं० 18 ।

(ग) और (घ) 8वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में उपर्युक्त के अतिरिक्त, विभिन्न राज्य सरकारों से नए राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के लिये लगभग 38,600 कि०मी० कुल लम्बाई के 133 प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं । परन्तु केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र की सड़कों के कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत निर्धारित किए गए बहुत ही कम आबंटन के कारण, इस समय नए राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की घोषणा कर पाना कठिन है।

Foreign firm's interest in uioder ni tation, of Porte

2249. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: WiH the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT b$_e$ pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 7886 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th June, 1994 and state:

(A) whether any foreign firms have shown interest or desired them to bo included for modernisation of ports operations; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) \es, Sir.

(b) The foreign firms have shown their interest in the areas of handling of bulk and break bulk cargo, providing container transport (Houlage) depot services, port management and leasing/ financing of dredging equipments etc.

Modernisation of Paradeep Port

2250. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ports identified by Government for modernization during th$_e$ Eighth Plan and funds earmarked therefor;

(b) what progress has been made so far in modernisation of these ports;

(c) wherth^r Government have taken steps to modernize Paradeep Port;

(d) if so, the progress made so far. and

(e) th$_e$ details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) All the 11 Major Ports in the country have been identified for modernization during 8th Plan. An outlay of Rs. 2984 crores has been allocated for this purpose.

(b) Several major projects aiming at modernisation of major ports namely Container Handling Facilities at Cal cutta Port, 7th Cargo Berth at Kandla Port. Second Coal Jetty at Huticorin Port, Balance portion of additional berth a New Mangalore Port and conversion of WJ-1, WJ-2 and WJ-3 Jetties at Visakhapatnam Port into full-iledged bertiis have since been completed and commissioned during 8th Plan.

(c) to (e) At Paradeep Port a major p; oject namely Construction of a Multi purpose Cargo Berth ha$_s$ already been sanctioned by Government at an esti mated cost of Rs. 26.36 crores and is taken up for execution. The work on this project is going on as per schedule and is likely to be completed by August,